

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Canceled)
2. (Currently amended) Counterweight ~~according to claim 1, characterized in that,~~ connectable to a washing machine tub (2), comprising an hollow shell (3) of U-shaped cross-section for containing a concrete ballast mass (4) poured therein, wherein said shell (3) is integrally provided in one piece with at least a foldable member (5) adapted to close at least a portion of said shell (4) in order to encapsulate said concrete ballast mass (4), wherein said foldable member (5) comprise a cover extending from a peripheral edge (8) of said shell (3) in correspondence to enlarged lower portions (6) thereof said peripheral edge (8) integrally provides pivotal sections (9) adapted to facilitate the rotation of said foldable member (5) around the peripheral edge (8) so that the ballast mass contained in the enlarged lower portion (6) are covered by said foldable member (5).
3. (Currently amended) Counterweight according to claim 2, ~~characterized in that said wherein~~ foldable member (5) has a peripheral edge comprising a clamping rim (10) adapted to engage a corresponding edge of said shell (3) to close the enlarged lower portion (6) and encapsulate the ballast mass (4).
4. (Currently amended) Counterweight ~~according to claim 1, connectable to a washing machine tub (2), comprising an hollow shell (3) of U-shaped cross-section for containing a concrete ballast mass (4) poured therein, wherein said shell (3) is integrally provided in one piece with at least a foldable member (5) adapted to close at least a portion of said shell (4) in order to encapsulate said concrete ballast mass (4), wherein a peripheral edge (8) of said shell (3) integrally provides pivotal sections (9) adapted to facilitate the rotation of the foldable member (5) around the peripheral edge (8).~~